

DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY - PATENT APPLICATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (*if only one name is listed below*) or an original, first and joint inventor (*if plural names are listed below*) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought in the application entitled:

STORAGE RAIL CONNECTORS FOR RATCHET WRENCH SOCKETS

the specification of which
(check one)

☒ is attached hereto _____ as
_____ was filed on _____ or
United States Application Serial No. _____
PCT International Application No. _____
and was amended on _____

I hereby declare that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to herein.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119(a)-(d) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate on which priority is claimed (as listed below) and I have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

| Prior Foreign Application(s) | Priority Claimed | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----|----|
| (Number) | (Country) | (Day/Month/Year Filed) | Yes | No |

I hereby claim benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

| | | | |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|
| Application Number | 60/408,649 | Filing Date | September 6, 2002 |
|--------------------|------------|-------------|-------------------|

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, §120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, §112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(b) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|
| Application Serial No. | Filing Date | Status-patented, pending, abandoned |
|------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|

I hereby appoint William R. Coffey, Reg. No. 24023; Arland T. Stein, Reg. No. 25062; Richard D. Conard, Reg. No. 27321; Dilip A. Kulkarni, Reg. No. 27510; Richard A. Rezek, Reg. No. 30796; Paul B. Hunt, Reg. No. 37154; Jeffrey A. Michael, Reg. No. 37394; Bradford G. Addison, Reg. No. 41486; Shawn D. Bauer, Reg. No. 41603; Jill T. Powlick, Reg. No. 42088; Ronald S. Henderson, Reg. No. 43669; James R. Sweeney II, Reg. No. 45670; Christopher E. Haigh, Reg. No. 46377; Kevin D. Bailey, Reg. No. 46531; Rebecca Ball, Reg. No. 46535; Carli E. Stewart, Reg. No. 51058; Helen Geib, Reg. No. 50924; Kevin L. McLaren, Reg. No. 48351; Perry Palan, Reg. No. 26213; Mark M. Newman, Reg. No. 31472; Richard P. Krinsky, Reg. No. 47720; Richard B. Lazarus, Reg.

No. 48215; Bobby B. Gillenwater, Reg. No. 31105; Gregory S. Cooper, Reg. No. 40965; Thomas J. Donovan, Reg. No. 33231; Alice O. Martin, Reg. No. 35601; Grant H. Peters, Reg. No. 35977; Daniel P. Albers, Reg. No. 44008; Sendil Devadas, Reg. No. 52425; Thomas E. Smith, Reg. No. 18243; Dennis M. McWilliams, Reg. No. 25195; James R. Sweeney, Reg. No. 18721; William M. Lee, Jr., Reg. No. 26935; Glenn W. Ohlson, Reg. No. 28455; David C. Brezina, Reg. No. 34128; Jeffrey R. Gray, Reg. No. 33391; Gerald S. Geren, Reg. No. 24528; Robert F.I. Conte, Reg. No. 20354; Timothy J. Engling, Reg. No. 39970; Howard B. Rockman, Reg. No. 22190; Peter J. Shakula, Reg. No. 40808; Mark A. Hagedorn, Reg. No. 44731; and Mark J. Nahnsen, Reg. No. 51093 as attorneys of record with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application, and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, and I specify that communications regarding the application be directed to:

BARNES & THORNBURG
P.O. Box 2786
Chicago, Illinois 60690-2786
(312) 357-1313
(312) 759-5646 Fax.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Michael F. Nickipuck

Full Name of Sole or First Joint Inventor

Michael F. Nickipuck
Inventor's Signature

US

Country of Citizenship

SEPTEMBER-4-2003

Date

4525 S. DuBois

Brookfield, Illinois 60513

Residence and Post Office Address

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~~12158, LAKE VIEW TRAIL~~

HOMER GLEN, IL 60491

M.F.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers necessary in connection with any interference which may be declared or litigation concerning the Application(s), U.S. national counterparts thereof, or continuation(s), division(s), reissue(s), reexamination(s) thereof, and to cooperate with the Assignee in every way possible in obtaining evidence and going forward with such interference or litigation.

The undersigned agree(s) to execute all papers and documents and perform any act which may be necessary in connection with claims or provisions of the International Convention for Protection of Industrial Property or similar agreements.

The undersigned agree(s) to do all other acts which, in the opinion of Assignee, may be necessary or desirable to secure the grant of Letters Patent to Assignee or its nominees, in the United States and in all other countries where Assignee may desire to have such inventions, or any of them, patented, with specifications and claims in such form as shall be approved by Assignee and to vest and confirm in Assignee or its nominees the full and complete legal and equitable title to all such Letters Patent.

The undersigned hereby authorize(s) and request(s) the Commissioner of Patents to issue any and all Letters Patent of the United States resulting or following from said Application(s) or any division or divisions or continuing or reissue applications thereof, and any reexamination of any of such applications, to the said Assignee, as Assignee of the entire interest, and hereby covenants that the undersigned has full right to convey the interest herein assigned, and that the undersigned has not executed, and will not execute, any agreement in conflict herewith. This effective date of this assignment is _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have executed this assignment this 4th day of SEPT., 2003.

Michael F. Nickipuck
Inventor's Signature

Michael F. Nickipuck
Printed Name

Outside the USA: Witnesses are required when acknowledgment before a Notary Public is not feasible.

WITNESS: _____

WITNESS: _____

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

STATE OF _____ }
COUNTY OF _____ } SS:

Acknowledged before me, a Notary Public, within and for said County and State. Witness my hand and Notarial Seal this _____ day of _____, 2003.

Notary Public

Printed Name

My Commission Expires: _____ Resident of _____ County